

Our Reference: UMJR-1476

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Peter X. Ma  
Serial Number: 09/255,963  
Filing Date: February 23, 1999  
Examiner/Art Group Unit: Carrie Stroup/1600  
Title: THREE-DIMENSIONAL  
HYDROGEL/CELL SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment before initial examination of the above-identified application.

In the Claims:

- 1 1. (Amended) A method comprising the steps  
2 of:  
3 (a) providing:  
4 i) an alginate salt,  
5 ii) a source of calcium ions, and  
6 iii) a calcium releasing compound;  
7 b) mixing [said] an alginate salt and [said]  
8 a source of calcium ions to provide a mixture; and  
9 [c] adding [said] a calcium releasing compound  
10 to [said] the mixture to provide a three-dimensional  
11 crosslinked hydrogel system.
- 1 2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, further  
2 comprising the step of [d] culturing [said] the three-  
3 dimensional crosslinked hydrogel system for growing cells  
4 in vitro.
- 1 3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein  
2 [said] the alginate salt is selected from the group  
3 consisting of sodium alginate and potassium alginate.

SUB  
B  
A/B